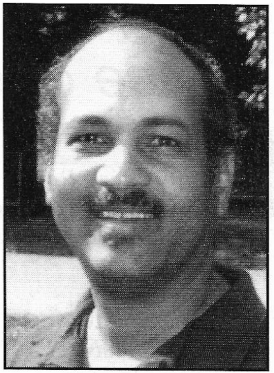
Tyco rekindled interest in trains

Monroe Stewart earns MMR No. 220

Monroe Stewart, like many of us, was exposed to trains in the late forties when he received an American Flyer train set for Christmas. As time went on, interest in trains diminished for some 10 to 15 years. During this period, Monroe earned a degree in architecture and building construction engineering. As a Captain in the Corps of Engineers he served a tour of duty in Vietnam, then returned to his native Washington, D.C. and started on a career as a government engineer.

His interest in trains and model railroading were rekindled with the receipt of a Tyco train set in the late sixties. This interest turned into a passion, eventually leading to the construction of the N-Scale Hooch Junction Railroad.

Monroe has been a member of the NMRA and Mid-Eastern Region since the mid-eighties, and was introduced to the Achievement program during an open-house attended by MMR Rick Shoup, MMR Dean Mellander, and Henry Jordan. This achievement was supported and encouraged by his wife Daisy, friends Alex Pope and Matt Schaefer, members of the Potomac Division, particularly the MMR's within the Division and Region.



Even though Monroe has a substantial railroad, he tries to find time for operations with friend Pete Matthews, and enjoys modules with the Northern Virginia N-Trackers.

In addition to a little (or lot) of encouragement, the key to the program is to take one thing at a time and pay attention to the paper work, Monroe said. Monroe does not consider himself a great modeler, just one who can follow directions, and who enjoys the hobby.

Monroe's certificates are in scenery, structures, volunteer, civil, motive power, electrical and official. What next? Monroe is working on dispatcher and author.

Monroe models the CSX and NS and their respective predecessors between Tidewater and West Virginia.

Monroe is always glad to open up his layout for a visit.•